

17 November 1955

Mr. John T. Campbell, Head
BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading Berks, England

Dear John:

It has been brought to my attention that our Okinawa Bureau has been guilty of procrastinating two months in the preparation of tape recordings of certain Chinese Nationalist broadcasts in Kuoyu and Cantonese which had been specially requested by the BBC Far Eastern Service through your Service. I wish to apologise for this apparently inexcusable delay and to express the hope that the records finally received were of sufficient timeliness and quality to be of some use to the requestor.

It is noted that the original request did not offer any indication of urgency or time limitation, and I would like to suggest that it would not only be most helpful to us in servicing BBC requests but also be a better guarantee to BBC of satisfactory action if a deadline could be specified in future requests. Okinawa Bureau indicates that the normal expectation of fulfillment within two to three weeks was complicated in this case by unanticipated difficulty in locating the desired "multiple feature" at a time when reception was satisfactory. The fact that action did occur within 24 hours after your inquiry eight weeks later on 12 October is sufficient indication that something probably could have been done within any deadline BBC would have cared to set. We are tightening control measures here, which I hope will eliminate the necessity for any future regrets.

Sincerely,

Chief, FBIS

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Orig & 1 - Addressee
1 - bcc Chief, London Bureau
1 - Exec file
1 - AMW

an alternate suggestion for easier handling, please don't hesitate to present it.

I suppose Mrs. Anderson is well entrenched now and I hope that she is enjoying her assignment and association with you as much as her predecessors. You might warn her that after a few more weeks of grace we intend to bring up the troublesome subject of the Joint Standardization Committee on which she is our representative. Even though this Committee may never be able to accomplish a great deal, I cannot help but think it worthwhile for a group of experts to get together periodically to take an objective and theoretical look at the work of our two Services.

You may have heard that we are contemplating an expansion of the Vienna Bureau to procure and scrutinize the Soviet Satellite press; not in its entirety, of course, but a few selected newspapers and party journals. It seems a great shame that the product of this effort cannot be used by the EDC. If at some time you find that this material would be useful for background purposes, even though it cannot be used for News Bureau purposes, please let us know and we will be happy to make the product available to you.

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[redacted] is planning a trip to our Bureau early in 1956 and I know that he is looking forward to a stop-over in England. He will be accompanied by [redacted] our Chief Engineer, who will, I hope, have some information for Mr. Hill on the Morse code converters that we are installing next week at the East Coast Bureau. I will give you more details on their trip when their itinerary is firm.

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It is a long way away, but for planning purposes we would like to propose the fall of 1956 for the next Joint Meeting if nothing requiring more immediate attention comes up in the meantime. I hope that [redacted] will be able to accompany me at that time and will of course be [redacted] representative so that I can enjoy the status of an interested spectator.

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This, I believe is all the news there is at the present and I assure you that my failure to write sooner has been due to no lack of interest but is attributable solely to the pressure of other work following the vacation season.

Sincerely,

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cc: AD/O
Chief, London Bureau, FBIS
Liaison Officer, FBIS

[redacted]
Chief, FBIS

AMW:fes

SECRET